

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 036802

FOLLOWING REPEATS ROME 02219 ACTION SECSTATE 10 FEB

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2219

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS:ENRG, IT

SUBJECT: US-ITALY ENERGY WORKING GROUP (EWG): PROPOSED JOINT
STATEMENT

REF: (A)STATE 11317 (B) ROME 1385 (C) STATE 21543

1. MINISTER MIGLIUOLO, MFA ENERGY COORDINATOR AND HEAD OF
GOI DELEGATION TO EWG, HAS ASKED EMBASSY TO STRESS TO WASH-
INGTON AGENCIES IMPORTANCE WHICH GOI ATTACHES TO NEGOTIATION
OF BILATERAL STATEMENT SUMMARIZING AREAS OF COOPERATION IN
EWG, WHICH INDICATES STRONG U.S. SUPPORT OF ITALIAN ALTERNA-
TIVE ENERGY PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY NUCLEAR ASPECTS CURRENTLY
UNDER DISSUSSION IN EWG. ACCORDING TO MIGLIUOLO, A STATEMENT
ALONG LINES OF HIS DRAFT (REF B) WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL
IN COUNTERING VIEW PREVALENT IN SOME CIRCLES (RESUMABLY MIN-
ISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND, IN PARTICULAR, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
DONAT CATTIN) THAT COSTS OF COLLABORATION IN ENERGY AREA WITH
OTHER OIL-CONSUMING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING U.S., HAVE OUTWEIGHED
BENEFITS. IN THAT CONNECTION MIGLIUOLO SAID THAT RECENT DEBATE
ON IEA/SLT LONG-TERM PROGRAM WAS DISAPPOINTING TO GOI (I.E.

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ON ISSUE OF ACCESS TO SUPPLY). HE NOTED THAT ITALIAN DELE-

GATION HAD NOT CHALLENGED DAVIGNON'S SUMMATION, BUT ADDED THAT RESULTS OF ACCESS TO SUPPLY DEBATE MADE IT ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT THAT ITALY HAVE STRONG JOINT STATEMENT AS VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF BENEFITS TO IT OF COOPERATION WITH U.S. AND, BY EXTENSION, CONSUMING COUNTRIES.

2. MIGLIUOLO IS CORRECT IN POINTING OUT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN GOI ON DEGREE OF ATTACHMENT TO PRINCIPLE OF CONSUMER COOPERATION. WHILE THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT GOI'S BASIC POLICY OF COOPERATION WILL CHANGE, SOME POLICY MAKERS DO QUESTION WHETHER THIS POLICY IS INDEED IN ITALY'S BEST INTERESTS AND WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR ITALY TO FOLLOW A MORE INDEPENDENT COURSE. FORTHCOMING U.S. POSITION IN JOINT STATEMENT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY SERVE TO COUNTER SUCH VIEWS.

3. JOINT STATEMENT SHOULD, HOWEVER, NOT BE VIEWED SOLELY WITHIN CONTEXT OF ENERGY POLICY. WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE AWARE OF BASIC U.S. INTEREST IN PREVENTING ENTRY INTO THE GOVERNMENT OF COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) AND OF RESULTANT NEED FOR U.S. TO PROVIDE WHATEVER SUPPORT IT CAN TO PRESENT ITALIAN LEADERSHIP. THIS TASK HAS BEEN RENDERED MORE DIFFICULT BY RECENT SPATE OF UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY ABOUT U.S.--WIDESPREAD AND CONTINUING QTE REVELATIONS UNQUOTE ABOUT CIA ACTIVITIES; CRITICISM OF MULTINATIONAL FIRMS, ESPECIALLY THOSE PLANNING WITHDRAWAL FROM ITALY; AND, MORE RECENTLY, ALLEGATION OF PAYOFFS BY LOCKHEED. STRONG STATEMENT INDICATING TANGIBLE BENEFITS TO TIALY FROM BILATERAL COOPERATION WOULD BOTH STRENGTHEN THOSE FORCES IN ITALY FAVORING MAINTENANCE OF CLOSE TIES WITH U.S., AND INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES IN GENERAL, AND, BY SHOWING U.S. NOT ONLY INTERESTED IN BUT ALSO DIRECTLY HELPING ITALY, SERVE TO COUNTER UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY ABOUT U.S.

4. WHILE EMBASSY IS NOT IN POSITION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON SPECIFICS OF MIGLIUOLO'S DRAFT, IT URGES WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO BEAR IN MIND OVERALL CONTEXT OF CONSIDRATION OF ISSUES RAISED THERIN. VOLPE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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